

# Comment - Draft California Water Plan Update 2018

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Wed 1/2/2019 11:00 AM

To: DWR CWP Comments <cwpcom@water.ca.gov>;

To Whom It May Concern,

I live in a rural community in Madera County. This area I live in is entirely dependent upon Madera basin groundwater for all our water supplies, (residential, commercial, agriculture). At a GSA groundwater meeting a few months ago we were told that our aquifer basically recharges about 1/2 acre ft/acre/yr native water. Unfortunately, our community is surrounded by permeant trees, (mostly almond) orchards. Our aquifer is over-drafted by 30% every year (160,000 af/yr). This overdraft is entirely due to these permanent tree crop plantings which have substantially grown and continue to grow, in just the past 5 years, replacing lower water use crops and previously unirrigated lands.

There is an easy answer to all of this. If the average basin recharge is 1/2 af/ac/yr, then that is all ANY user should be allowed to extract, Period! Ex., You want to farm 1000 acres, you get 500 af/yr. You have a residential water system that covers 1000 acres, 500 af/yr. You own a house on 2 acres, 1af/yr.

But MOST IMPORTANTLY, no groundwater, or groundwater rights should become a commodity. NO GROUNDWATER MARKET. All groundwater rights, need to be attached to the land it lays under. If water is left unused, great, more water to help with sustainability. Allowing groundwater rights to be sold and presumable used offsite is a disaster waiting to happen. IF, you want to secure longterm sustainability, the groundwater always needs to stay and be used or not used in place.

Thank You  
Bev Walsh